

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 1, 1864.—Read first and second times, referred to the Committee on Impressments and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. LYON, from Committee of Ways and Means.]

A BILL

To be entitled An Act to provide for the settlement of claims against the Confederate States, for property lost, captured or destroyed, while in the military service of the Confederate States, or which has been taken or impressed for their use.

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do*
2 *enact, That where any officer, non-commissioned officer, musician*
3 *or private, of the army during the existence of the present war,*
4 *has sustained, or may sustain, damage by the loss of any horse,*
5 *which has been killed in battle, or which has died from*
6 *wounds received therein, or because the rider was killed or*
7 *wounded in battle, or because the owner was dismounted, or*
8 *separated or detached from his horse by the command of a su-*
9 *perior officer, or because he has been ordered to abandon him, or*
10 *because sufficient forage was not furnished to the owner by the*
11 *Confederate States, under their obligation to do so, he shall be*
12 *allowed and paid a reasonable compensation for the horse so lost,*
13 *not to exceed five hundred dollars.*

1 SEC. 2. That where any person, during the present war, has
2 sustained, or may sustain, damage by the loss, capture or de-
3 struction of any slave, horse, mule, ox, wagon, cart, boat, or
4 other property, by the public enemy, while the same was in the
5 actual military service of the Confederate States, by contract or
6 impressment, except in cases where the risk to which the prop-
7 erty would be exposed was assumed by the owner thereof, if it
8 shall appear that such loss, capture or destruction, was without
9 fault or negligence on the part of the owner, he shall be allowed
10 and paid a reasonable compensation for the said property.

1 SEC. 3. That where any property has been taken by any
2 public authority for the subsistence, equipment, support, or use
3 of the army, and the same has been consumed, damaged, lost or
4 destroyed, while the same is in the service or used by the army,
5 and compensation has not been adjusted or obtained under the
6 laws concerning impressments, after reasonable efforts to do so,
7 the owner thereof shall be allowed to recover the value thereof
8 under the terms of this act.

1 SEC. 4. That the President, by and with the consent of the
2 Senate, is hereby authorized to appoint one commissioner in
3 each State, in which the claims shall be of sufficient number and
4 magnitude to require it, whose duty it shall be to decide upon all
5 cases arising under this act, and who, in the discharge of his
6 duties, shall be subject to such rules and regulations as shall be

7 prescribed by the Attorney General. Such commissioner shall
8 receive the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars for the
9 time he shall be actually employed, which shall not exceed two
10 years from the passage of this act.

1 Sec. 6. That the Attorney General shall, with all practicable
2 dispatch, proceed to prepare such rules for the direction and
3 guidance of the commissioners, in reference to the time and
4 place of holding their sessions, their manner of proceeding, in
5 the reception of claims under this act, and as to the species and
6 degree of evidence to support the same, and the mode of its
7 authentication, as shall in his opinion be best calculated to ac-
8 complish the objects of this act and secure justice to the indi-
9 vidual claimants, which rules shall be published in the papers in
10 the several States in which the laws are published, for six weeks
11 successively.

1 Sec. 7. That the several commissioners shall make a report of
2 their decisions to the Attorney General, together with a state-
3 ment of the evidence in relation to the same, who shall revise
4 the report and decisions, and shall submit the same to Congress
5 with his opinion thereon, and an estimate in favor of the claims
6 allowed: *Provided however*, That if the claim shall not exceed
7 five hundred dollars it may be paid upon the approval of the ad-
8 judication by the Attorney General.